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OCI No. 2672/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
21 September 1965

State Department review completed

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The India-Pakistan Situation
(Report #60 - As of 4:00 P.M. EDT)

1. In a conversation with the US Ambassador today, President Ayub stated that the Pakistani Government has not yet decided on a response to the UN demand for a cease-fire. Foreign Minister Bhutto is to sound out the "major powers" in New York on what steps will be taken to reach a Kashmir settlement before Ayub makes a final decision. During a London stopover Bhutto told reporters that Pakistan's decision will be announced after his planned discussions at UN headquarters.

2. Pakistan has officially replied to the Soviet offer of good offices in Indian-Pakistani war. The reply states "no objection in principle" but neither accepts nor rejects the Soviet offer pending the outcome of UN cease-fire efforts. The Indians have not yet officially replied to the Soviet offer. L.K. Jha, secretary to Prime Minister Shastri, inquired of the US Ambassador today how the US would react to an Indian acceptance "in principle" of the Soviet offer. Jha said that an early US reply is urgently needed as India must reply on Wednesday before the Chinese deadline expires.

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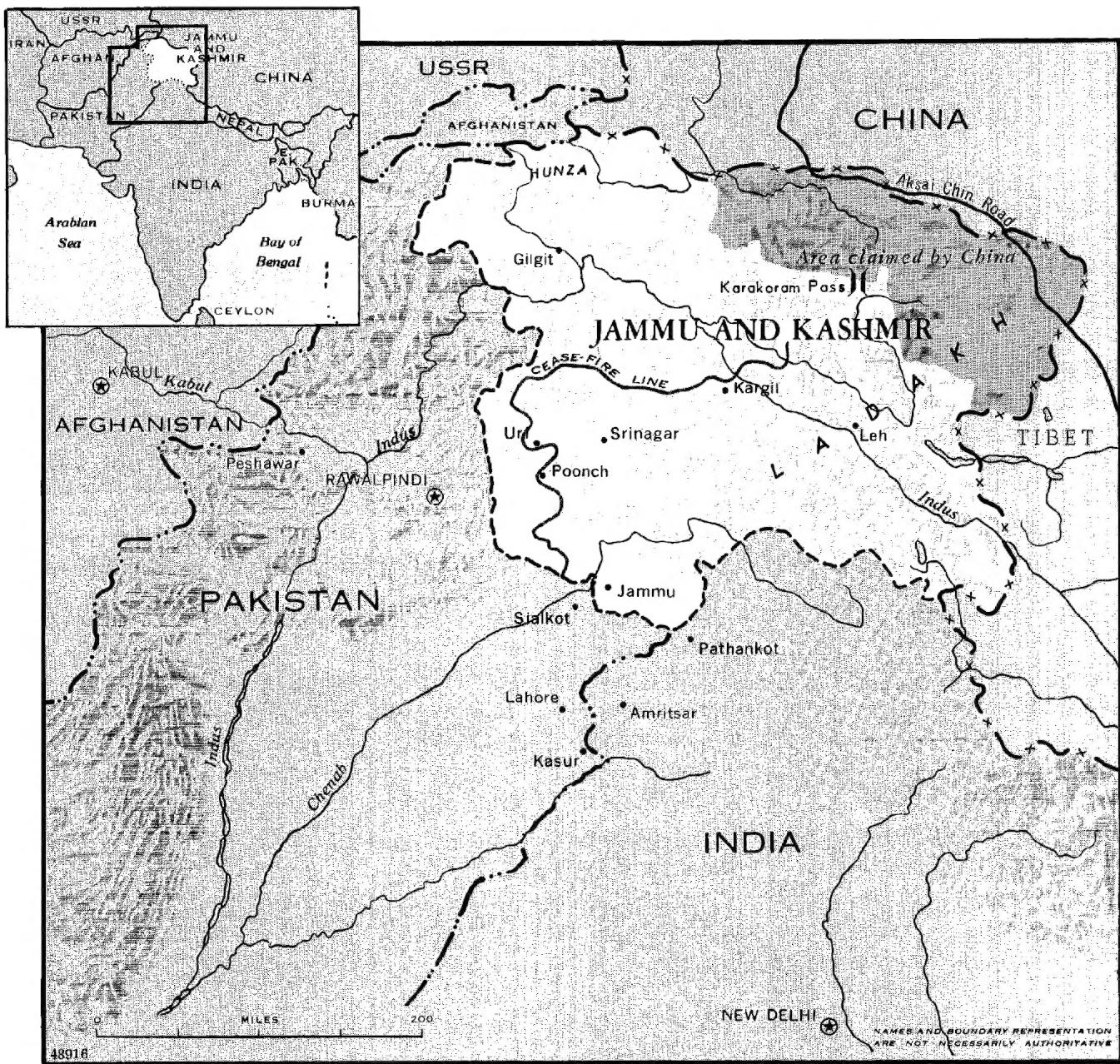
4. A high-ranking Indian official has told the US Ambassador in New Delhi that the Indian Government believes that the Chinese will launch their main attack through the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh. The Indians believe that Chinese strategy is to link up with Pakistani forces in Azad Kashmir to support them in capturing Srinagar. Chinese attacks in Sikkim and in the North East Frontier Area would be merely diversionary thrusts.

5. Fighting is apparently going on in an area four miles northwest of Suchetgarh which is located 10 miles northeast of Sialkot. The Indians claim to have beaten back a counter-attack by tank-supported Pakistani infantry.

6. A Pakistani Air Force spokesman today claimed that an Indian Canberra bomber was knocked down by F-104 Starfighter jets using sidewinder missiles during a raid on Pakistan's Sargodha air base. Pakistan has been very sparing in its use of its F-104's as it has only 12. This is the first kill that the Paks have attributed to the Starfighters.

7. President Ayub has apologized for the widespread mob action today against US nationals and facilities and has offered restitution and assurances of future protection.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 Office of Current Intelligence
 21 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The India-Pakistan Situation
 (Supplement to Report #59 - As of 2:30 P.M. EDT)

1. The UPI news report (Ticker UPI-113) from Moscow, quoting well-informed local and Indian sources to the effect that Pakistan has agreed to a cease-fire with India, should be treated with reserve.

2. On its face, this report suggests that sources in Karachi informed Moscow either officially or clandestinely of the Pakistani decision. It seems strange that the Pakistani government would officially inform Moscow of such a decision at about the same time that President Ayub was telling US Ambassador McConaughy that he had sent Foreign Minister Bhutto to New York to obtain clarification of the UN's intentions regarding a settlement in Kashmir. Bhutto's public remarks to the effect that this was his mission also militate against a decision already having been taken to accept a cease-fire. Assuming that the report leaked to Moscow clandestinely, the same argument against it would hold true.

3. It is also doubtful that Moscow would have been told of the decision before it was communicated to the United Nations, to the United States, or to India. Protocol would demand otherwise. Moscow's neutrality (leaning toward India) in the Indo-Pakistani conflict would not have encouraged Ayub to let Moscow be the first to know of a cease-fire.

4. Linking the report to Indians in Moscow who predicted "peace (by) tomorrow morning" suggests an Indian propaganda gambit to put pressure on Pakistan by falsely preparing the world for an announcement which Pakistan might not have been ready to make.

5. In any case, it is probable that the Pakistanis will make at least one more pitch for some UN commitment on Kashmir before agreeing to a cease-fire.

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